



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Mike Knapp

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2007

STATEMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER MIKE KNAPP
ON THE FINAL REPORT OF THE
AD HOC AGRICULTURAL POLICY WORKING GROUP

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"I applaud the efforts of the working group to reach consensus on what we have all agreed are very difficult issues. The group's final recommendations provide a framework for the County Council to shape the way in which we protect and manage the precious 93,000 acres of county land known as the Agricultural Reserve.

"Sand mounds, child lots, and TDRs aren't just topics of policy discussion. They affect how our county grows, and they have a very real impact on the livelihoods of our farmers and residents of the Ag Reserve. We can address each issue individually, but we're better served if we look at them comprehensively, as part of the larger support system for the preservation of farming and open spaces in our community. The working group has given us thoughtful recommendations, as well as a comprehensive framework in which we can consider any future legislation.

"The members of the working group have diverse backgrounds and approaches to agriculture and preservation, but they all shared a common belief that the Ag Reserve is one of our county's most valuable assets and deserves a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to its further protection and wise utilization. For that reason, I am pleased with the thought they have given these matters, and with the consensus they have reached. The Ag Reserve is vitally important to

Montgomery County and all our residents owe the working group a great thanks for their time and effort over the last nine months.”

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